



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/543,949	04/06/2000	Grover John Manderfield, Jr	P99,1996	7906

26263 7590 04/22/2002

SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL
P.O. BOX 061080
WACKER DRIVE STATION
CHICAGO, IL 60606-1080

EXAMINER

ELOSHWAY, NIKI MARINA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3727

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/543,949

Applicant(s)

MANDERFIELD, JR, GROVER
JOHN

Examiner

Niki M. Eloshway

Art Unit

3727

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 21-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 24-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 3727

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I (a plastic container) in Paper No. 4 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 21-23 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in Paper No. 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 3, 17 and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (U.S. 5,105,769). Smith et al. teach a blow molded bowl, shown in figures 3 and 4. Col. 4 lines 3-9, discuss that the bowl is blow molded. The upper rim is element 40 and the side wall is comprised of elements 28 and 20. The side wall extends outwardly at element 28 and then inwardly therebelow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3727

6. Claims 1, 3, 13, 16, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manca (U.S. D381,561) in view of Smith et al. (U.S. 5,105,769). Manca discloses the claimed invention except for the container being blow molded of plastic. Smith et al. teach that it is known to blow mold a container of plastic (see col. 4 lines 3-9). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the container of Manca with the container being blow molded of plastic, as taught by Smith et al., in order to easily form the container from a lightweight, widely used and effectively recycled material.

7. Claims 2, 4-12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manca in view of Smith et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Cheng (U.S. 5,549,210).

Regarding claims 2, 4-12 and 15, the modified container of Manca discloses the claimed invention except for the plurality of feet at the bottom of the container. Cheng teaches that it is known to provide a container with a plurality of feet at the bottom (see figures 1-6). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the modified container of Manca with the plurality of feet of Cheng, in order to strengthen the bottom wall of the container.

Regarding claim 14, the modified container of Manca discloses the claimed invention except for the lid being rotatably secured to the container. Cheng teaches that it is known to provide a container with a closure which is rotatably secured thereto (see figures 5). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the modified container of Manca with the lid being rotatably secured to the container, in order to securely fasten the lid to the container.

Art Unit: 3727

8. Claims 18 , 19, 26 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. in view of Valyi (U.S. 5,939,153). Smith et al. discloses the claimed invention except for the container being multi-layered. Valyi teaches that it is known to make a container of plastic. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the container of Smith et al. with the container being made of multi-layered plastic, as taught by Valyi, in order to increase the strength of the container.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed January 30, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the opening of Manca is not adaptable for a user to easily scoop or dip contents out of the pot. It is noted that the features upon which applicant relies are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to the blow molding of the container have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The new grounds of rejection were necessitated by the amendment filed January 30, 2002.

Conclusion

11. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

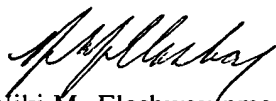
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-

Art Unit: 3727

MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

12. In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 3720 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at (703)305-3579. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a USPTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into group 3720 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Niki M. Eloshway whose telephone number is (703) 308-1606. The examiner is in the office on Tuesdays and Fridays. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the 3700 Customer Service Office at (703) 306-5648.


Niki M. Eloshway/nme
Patent Examiner
April 16, 2002


Stephen K. Cronin
Primary Examiner